

CONNECTICUT STATE CONFERENCE OF NAACP BRANCHES

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF **SB 477, Sec. 7 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC HEALTH** **OF RESIDENTS OF THE STATE**

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, Senator Hwang,
Representative Petit, Senator Somers, and members of the Public
Health Committee:

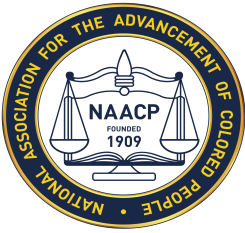
Thank you for raising this important bill. My name is Scot X. Esdaile, President of the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches and member of the NAACP National Board of Directors. The CT NAACP supports **SB 477, Section 7 (AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF RESIDENTS OF THE STATE)**.

The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) remains committed to stopping the violence that is occurring in our communities in Connecticut and throughout the nation.

The NAACP was founded in 1909; a grassroots organization created to combat the racial violence by stopping the lynchings happening to African Americans in the South. Since its inception, we have become the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the world, with over 500,000 members and 2,200 Branches worldwide.

The CT NAACP has 16 Branches across the State with 8 Youth Councils and 8 College Chapters, and our members are dedicated to carrying out the mission of the NAACP. The NAACP's mission is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

The CT NAACP supports SB 477, Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Commission on Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention to coordinate the funding and implementation of evidence-based, evidenced-informed, community-centric gun programs and strategies to reduce community gun violence in the state. The commission shall be part of the Legislative Department.



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For 113 years the NAACP has been in the forefront marching, protesting, and creating policy that is geared towards eradicating violence in the communities and neighborhoods that we serve. We urge you to support **SB 477, Sec. 7, (*AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF RESIDENTS OF THE STATE*)**, which is consistent with the NAACP's efforts for over a century.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting this bill.

Sincerely Yours in the Struggle,

Scot X. Esdaile,
State President &
National Board of Directors

CT NAACP State Conference
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